

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # _____

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

This project requests funds to operate and maintain facilities and trails at Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. Facilities include the caretaker site (deck, two sheds, lawn, perimeter fence, water supply, septic tank, electricity, phone), an ATV training site, a 4x4 obstacle course, three picnic areas containing eleven picnic tables, eight fire rings, two restrooms, nine trash cans, three kiosks, a paved OHV staging area containing an unloading ramp and drinking water system, and a scenic overlook.

The application identifies replacement of the chain link fence at the caretaker site, rope replacement at the entrance to the recreation area, repair and upgrade of the 4x4 obstacle course, purchase and installation of snow fence at the 1.5 mile one-way OHV trail, and tree trimming at the Cypress Grove picnic area. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of various signs would occur throughout the riding area as needed.

There are 10 miles of riding trails that would be maintained at least 4 times per year. The 1/2 mile of graveled access road (Jetty Road) would be maintained at least twice per year. Road maintenance requires the use of a motor grader and periodic re-supply of road base, while trail maintenance requires the use of either a tractor with box scraper or small dozer. The trails are located within the sand dune area designated "open" to OHV use.

Labor dollars are needed to operate and maintain facilities. BLM positions associated with this work include the maintenance worker, outdoor recreation planner, park ranger, and two volunteer caretakers who reside on-site.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

This ground operations project is necessary to provide an adequate level of services to the estimated 28,500 OHV visitors who recreate in this area each year. A BLM maintenance worker, outdoor recreation planner, seasonal park ranger, and two volunteer resident caretakers maintain these facilities to enhance the OHV recreation experience and maintain OHV opportunities. Keeping the ATV training site well maintained provides an excellent area for beginners to learn how to ride an OHV, and reduces the potential safety hazard of having beginners traveling on the same trails that advanced riders enjoy riding on. The numerous signs and information posted on the three kiosks provide riders with rules, regulations, and maps of specific areas that are open or closed to OHV use. These information facilities reduce law enforcement problems related to riding in closed areas, flags, double riding, and speeding in reduced speed zones. Maintaining the riding trails provides for an enjoyable riding experience and helps deter the motivation to seek out other areas which may be closed to OHV use. Installing large diameter rope and the area's entrance, and snow fence along portions of the 1.5 mile one-way loop trail would encourage on-trail travel. OHV enthusiasts often times stage and picnic at the Cypress Grove picnic area. Removal of dead tree limbs would provide for a safer recreation experience. Recruitment and reorientation of rocks, concrete blocks, tree stumps, and large tires at the 4WD obstacle course would increase riding opportunities and experiences at this location. The volunteer caretakers residing at the entrance to Samoa Dunes play an important role in providing information to OHV riders, and keeping the facilities clean and safe. For their security, the existing chain link fence surrounding the caretaker compound is rusting away and needs to be replaced.

Avoiding conflicts with non-motorized recreation users is crucial in this relatively small area as approximately 150,000 non-motorized recreation visitors use the area annually. Having specific OHV riding facilities (ATV training site, 4x4 obstacle course, OHV staging area) attracts riders to these particular sites and leaves additional space for other users, thus reducing user conflicts. Maintaining and installing new speed limit, caution, and slow signs inform riders of nearby areas where other recreation activities are occurring, and therefore reduces user conflicts and enhances public safety by preventing potential collisions. Existing signs also inform non-OHV users the location of riding areas so they know what to expect.

Neighboring residents and nearby private property are protected from trespass and property damage because signs have been installed along the property boundaries, and post and cable vehicle barriers physically prevent riders from trespassing. The prevailing wind from the north substantially reduces noise impacts because the neighboring residents live north of the riding area.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

Samoa Dunes Recreation Area totals approximately 400 acres. The open riding area totals approximately 220 acres and areas closed to OHV use (endangered plant protection area and wetland protection area) total nearly 180 acres. Approximately 10 miles of OHV trails, located throughout the open riding area, are maintained.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The ATV training site, located at the entrance to the recreation area, is approximately 1 acre in size and provides beginners a safe place to learn and train. The site is fenced to delineate its boundary. The 4x4 obstacle course, located at the south end of Samoa Dunes, consists of two different sized rock piles, old telephone poles, and a few large tires where riders can test and display their skills. A tot-lot beginners trail is located adjacent to the Cypress Grove picnic area. A paved OHV staging area containing a drinking water system, a scenic overlook, picnic tables, fire rings, a restroom, trash cans, an information kiosk, and an unloading ramp provide OHV enthusiasts with all the amenities and basic requirements needed for a successful OHV recreation experience. The paved and graveled access roads lead to picnic areas and the OHV staging area. The OHV riding trails are located within the 220 acre open area, mostly on the western portion of the recreation area.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting